

City of Somerville, Health Department
Report to Joint Public Health Board, Board of Health and Mayor's Office
for July 2006

Board of Health

- Board members discussed the integration agreement document between Inspectional Services Division and the Board of Health

Director's Updates

Emergency Preparedness

- Director and EP Asst Coordinator meet with regional coordinator to update All Hazards Plan in the BOH Emergency Operations Plan
- Trailer for Public Health Emergency Supplies received at DPW yard
- Director and 311 Director meet to discuss educational outreach on trash ordinance changes
- Director and EP Asst Coordinator plan local pandemic flu exercise

Rodent Control

- Director convenes fourth meeting of Rodent Control Taskforce and recommendations for Trash Ordinance Changes discussed.

Active Living/ Shape Up Somerville

- Director attends Somerville Smart Growth Forum session at Tufts University
- Director participates in second round interviews for Shape Up Somerville

Other

- Director participates in Youth Suicide and Overdose Paper planning
- Director convenes Trauma Network Manager Sustainability Meeting with key partners
- Director convenes meeting with Leadership of Teen Connection Health Center
- Director participates in Tobacco Control Program Site Visit

Personnel

- SCAP second round interviews for Director position with Coalition Chair and Health Director
- SUS second round interviews for Coordinator position
- Tobacco Enforcement Officer final interviews

Health Inspectors

Sanitary Inspections

- Responded to 14 complaints, 11 resolved
- Conducted 8 inspections of retail/food establishments, 7 reinspections
- Eleven new business inspections
- Sixteen first visits to potential new businesses/progress checks
- Responded to two emergencies (chemical spill, power outage)
- Review and process annual license renewals
- Bounce checks collection

Housing Inspections

- Responded to 118 complaints, 96 resolved
- Conducted 6 full inspections

- Responded to two emergencies (power outage, syringes disposed of in sewers)
- Met with Modern Pest Extermination for rodent control in the City of Somerville
- Collaborated with the Neighborhood Impact Team
- Court hearings for trash tickets
- Issued trash & commercial tickets

Public Health Nursing

- Provided cross-training in public health to school nurse
- Provided case management services to seven active TB cases
- Investigated 10 communicable disease cases

School Nursing

- School Nurses gave first aid to 824 students in June
- School Nurses performed illness assessments on 1122 students in June
- School Nurses performed 214 nursing procedures in June (tube feedings, ostomy care, glucose testing, peak/flow monitoring etc.)
- School Nurses gave out medications to students 949 times in June
- School Nurses received in-service training on suicide prevention
- Psychosocial Counseling was documented 279 times in nurse's offices in June
- SNL giving nursing triage support to high school summer school
- SNL continues to provide clinical support to nurses
- SNL working on updating procedure manual
- SNL increasing educational materials available for nurse use
- SNL finalizing quality assurance project on vision follow up documentation

Somerville Commission for Women

- Events: Art beat and Union Square Farmers' Markets information booths were held.
- Collaboration Projects: a calendar of events for the city, an updated social services agencies contact list, DV Taskforce meetings, outreach to Chamber of Commerce and professionals in Somerville, and groundwork for an organized meeting with executive directors are almost concluded.
- Report: the updated Status of Somerville Women report will be released in August.
- Commissioners: we had one new visitor at the monthly meeting and continue to develop multiple interested individuals to participate on the Commission.

Somerville Cares About Prevention

- 2 Staff met with the Melrose Health Dept's new Substance Abuse prevention coordinator to update on Somerville's strategies in dealing with Opiate overdoses.
- Staff completed inputting 75 members into the new database developed by Institute of Community Health.
- Met with ICH Evaluation team to refine process of database, and continue to work on SCAP logic model.

- Met with Cambridge Health Agenda director to give input on Substance Abuse section of the Well Being of Somerville report.
- 2 Staff and 2 volunteers attended the Massachusetts Oxycontin and Other Drug Abuse Commission release of final report at the State House.
- Alcohol Purchase Survey letters were sent to all retailers who were visited during June.
- Families Anonymous Meetings were held. 7/6,7/13/7/20 and 7/27.
- Met with Medford and Everett Coalition directors to discuss strategies and areas of collaboration.
- Attended inter-coalition meeting at Regional Center for Healthy Communities.
- Attended CHNA 17 planning meeting for “Walk in My Shoes” to be held in September.
- 2 staff attended PDH sponsored workshop in Boston on the RFR process.
- Developed agenda for monthly Coordinating Committee Meeting

Tobacco Control

Administrative

- Richard Khalife (Enf. Officer) resigned due to a personal emergency. Will attempt to hire new enforcement officer from the pool of recent applicants.
- Joe Correia (Sunsetters) has been working as our youth worker for the summer. He’s been doing a great job assisting tobacco control and other programs under the Health Department.
- Successful DPH site visit on 07/31/06. Program received high remarks.
- Prepared yearly program enforcement activities work plan.

Youth Access

- Re-introduced Youth Access proposed amendments at Chelsea Board of Health meeting.
- Retailer Training:
 - Revere/Chelsea: 07/25/06, 4 attendees
 - Somerville: 250 pieces (It includes invitations to retailer for training on 08/09/06)
 - Cambridge: 148 pieces
 - Chelsea: 61 pieces
 - Everett: 58 pieces
 - Revere: 83 pieces
 - Total: 600 pieces
- Tobacco retailer compliance checks (cigars) in:
 - Somerville (Checked: 18 stores, Sales: 2). Rate of sale FY06: 2.8%
- Tobacco retailer educational inspections in:
 - Chelsea (Visited: 15, Stores w/o valid permit: 11, warnings: 11)
 - Cambridge (Visited: 3, stores w/o valid permit: 3, warnings: 3)
 - Everett (Visited: 1, stores w/o valid permit 1, warnings: 1)

Trauma Response Network

- Facilitated hiring process for SCAP Director, including administration re: interviews, checking of references, coordinating Coalition team, candidates, HR and Health Director

- Planning, coordination and co-facilitation of Suicide Survivor's Support Group 7/ 31
- Attended 2 meetings at CTRF for trauma coordination efforts
- Worked on writing of grant for Coaches/Youth workers Conversations Project, turned in 7/21
- Worked with Health Department Director and community stakeholders to secure funding for Trauma position for next year
- Attended Youth Worker's Network Meeting 7/18
- Met with Head of Guidance and District Administrator of Student Services to plan for emergency preparedness/trauma protocol process
- Worked on Community Based Participatory Research Project – did some writing, attended meeting 7/11
- Provided TRN communication re: anniversary dates/trauma climate
- Participated in planning re: trauma role sustainability – background, meetings 7/11
- Networked with TRN community members 7/17, 7/24
- Participated in process for collation of data/feedback for Health Indicators project 7/12, 7/24